

# Environment and Transport Select Committee

**TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2015**

**7.00 pm**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES,  
CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES**

**A G E N D A**

[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/scrutiny)

Chair: Councillor P Geary

Councillors: Bint, Cannon, Green, McKenzie, McPake (Vice-Chair), Petchey (Vice-Chair), Wilson and 1 Labour Group vacancy

**This meeting is open to the Public**

For more information about the meeting please contact Simon Heap on (01908) 2522567 or by e-mail [simon.heap@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:simon.heap@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

## **What is Overview and Scrutiny?**

Each local authority is required by law to establish an overview and scrutiny function to support and scrutinise the Council's executive arrangements.

Each select committee has its own remit as set out in its terms of reference but they each meet to consider issues of local importance.

They have a number of key roles:

- Providing a critical friend challenge to policy makers and decision makers
- Enabling the voice and concerns of the public
- Driving improvement in public services.

The select committees consider issues by receiving information from and questioning officers and external partners to develop an understanding of proposals or practices. They then develop recommendations to provide to officers, Members or external partners that they believe will improve performance, or as a response to public consultations.

As select committees have no executive powers they often present their conclusions in the form of recommendations that can be provided to the Council, Cabinet or external agencies. Members will often request a formal response and progress report on the implementation of recommendations that they have provided to various parties.

## **Attending Meetings of Select Committees**

Meetings of the select committees are held in public and are open for everyone to attend. If you would like to attend then please just turn up but if you can, please let us know you are attending in advance of the meeting and whether or not you would like to make a representation to Members on behalf of yourself or others.

If there are specific issues that the meeting must consider in private then they will be asked to consider this at the meeting.

After the meeting the recommendations and Minutes of the meeting, as well as agendas and reports for the majority of the Council's public meetings are available via the Council's website at:

<http://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/>

## **The Overview & Scrutiny process aims to promote the five themes and priorities set out in the Milton Keynes Council's Corporate Plan**

The **Corporate Plan** and framework sets out the vision for Milton Keynes. It captures what type of place Milton Keynes aspires to be for all those who live, work, learn and visit here. The plan sets out ambitious new objectives for Milton Keynes including achieving world class status for its design, new approaches and technologies and as a sporting city.

It has five key themes which help communicate all the work the Council does on behalf of the residents of the borough.

### **The five themes are:**

#### **Cleaner, greener, safer, healthier MK:**

Improve health and well-being, reduce health inequalities and work with partners to reduce crime and disorder to improve quality of life in MK.

#### **Visiting MK:**

Aim to make Milton Keynes a highly regarded visitor destination with a safe and effective transport system which is easily accessible regionally, nationally and internationally.

#### **Working in MK:**

To improve the skills and opportunities of everyone in Milton Keynes and help jobseekers into work, while attracting and retaining businesses to provide new opportunities and to bring people, jobs and industries to MK to improve the strength and resilience of the local economy.

#### **Living in MK:**

Ensuring people are satisfied with Milton Keynes as a place to live, and to support them effectively through the provision of high quality and efficient public services.

#### **World Class MK:**

Our ambition is to increase the international and national standing of Milton Keynes in several areas including our economic success, thriving communities and a high quality environment.

## **GENERAL TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES/PANELS**

- (a) To review or scrutinise any decision made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any of the Executive Functions within the remit of the Committee/Panel.
- (b) To make reports or recommendations to the Council or to the Cabinet with respect to the discharge of any of the Executive Functions within the remit of the Committee/Panel.
- (c) To review or scrutinise any decision made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any of the Non-executive Functions within the remit of the Committee/Panel.
- (d) To make reports or recommendations to the Council or any Committee of the Council with respect to the discharge of any of the Non-executive Functions within the remit of the Committee/Panel.
- (e) To make reports or recommendations to the Council, to the Cabinet or to a regulatory committee on matters within the remit of the Committee/Panel which affect the Council's area or the inhabitants of the Council's area.
- (f) To consider any representations made in connection with the work of the Committee/Panel by a Member of the Council on behalf of her/his constituents.
- (g) To appoint advisers from outside the Council to advise the Committees/Panels.

### **Environment and Transport Select Committee - Terms of Reference**

1. To assist in the planning and provision of services to enhance the environment of the Borough.
2. To assist in the planning and provision of transport services throughout the Borough.
3. To scrutinise the provision of services, the achievement of targets and the provision of resources to this end.
4. To appoint a planning group to oversee the implementation of the Committee's work programme, as agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.
5. To be the Council's designated Flood and Water Scrutiny Committee.

## AGENDA

### 1. **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair to welcome Members, officers and the public to the meeting and introduce Members and officers who are present.

### 2. **Apologies**

### 3. **Minutes**

To approve, and the Chair to sign as a correct record, the Minutes of the meetings of the Environment and Transport Select Committee held on 19 January 2015 (Item 3) (**Page 11**) .

### 4. **Disclosures of Interest**

Members to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests, or personal interests (including other pecuniary interests), they may have in the business to be transacted, and officers to disclose any interests they may have in any contract to be considered.

### 5. **Public Transport**

The Committee will receive an introduction and presentation from a representative of the Better Transport Campaign on the Campaign's report 'Car Dependency Scorecard 2014: The Top English Cities for Sustainable Transport' (Item 5[a]) (**Pages 12 to 31**), which will address:

- What / How can Milton Keynes learn from the report?
- What are the challenges?

The Committee will then receive an Introduction to the CMK Transport and Parking Strategy consultation from officer colleagues. The consultation document is at Item 5(b) (**Pages 32 to 113**), which the Cabinet Portfolio Holder is due to agree for consultation earlier in the evening, therefore until adopted remains draft.

A representative of the Milton Keynes Transport Partnership and Mr Alan Francis (Chair of the Milton Keynes Transport Partnership Public Transport Sub-Group) have been invited to add a local perspective, specifically the future challenges they believe Milton Keynes is facing.

The Committee will be able to seek clarification from the witnesses before moving on to discuss:

- making recommendations as to what it believes the Council needs to do / change to meet the challenges: and
- a response to the CMK Transport and Parking Strategy consultation.

### 6. **Planning Peer Review**

To receive an update on the implementation of the improvement plan arising from the recent Planning Peer Review.

A copy of the improvement plan is attached at Item 6 (**Pages 114 to 119**).

## 7. Highways Contract Sub-Group

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Highways Contract Sub-Group held on 3 February 2015 Item 7 (**Pages 120 to 121**)

## 8. Responses from Cabinet – 9 February 2015

At its last meeting on 19 January 2015, the Committee made recommendations to the responsible Cabinet member / Cabinet as follows:

### (a) Highways – Prioritisation of Works

- (i) “That the responsible Cabinet member be requested to work with the Service Director (Public Realm) to develop a holistic communications / consultation approach around future plans for the management of the Council’s Highways Assets which actively engages all stakeholders, including parish and town councils, in a variety of ways and is at heart of the Council’s work on highway maintenance.
- (ii) That the Cabinet be requested to ensure that adequate resources are available to enable the Council to apply for all appropriate Government Grants, so maximising the resources available to support the Council’s Highways Assets.

A response from the responsible Cabinet member is attached at Item 8 (**Page 122**).

### (b) Reductions in Bus Subsidies / Concessionary Fares

1. That the Cabinet be advised of the Committee’s disappointment at the potential impact the reduction in bus subsidy and increases in concessionary fares, if they are necessary, would have on the local economy, education parking, travel patterns and modal shift.
2. That the Cabinet be recommended to receive legal advice on:
  - (a) the implications of the Barnet Judgement regarding increases to parking fees to raise surplus revenue for use on other transport purposes; and
  - (b) whether it is lawful to allocate expenditure from the Parking Surplus Account 2015/16 before the year starts and any sequential spending priorities set out in Section 55 of the Road Traffic 1984 Act.
3. That the Cabinet be recommended to consider the possibility of either reducing the frequency of some services and / or using fewer vehicles in order to create a saving which could be used to support other bus services.
4. That the Cabinet be recommended to consider alternative ways of achieving the level of savings required from the transport budget by identifying alternative reductions from within that budget.

5. That the Cabinet be recommended to review of the proposed spend on temporary car parks in Central Milton Keynes and the long term implications of their removal.
6. That the Cabinet be recommended to consider whether any reduced demand for concessionary fares may result in less take up, so freeing up additional resources which could be used to lessen the reduction in bus subsidies.
7. That the Cabinet be advised of the Committee's concerns at the apparent lack of consultation with town and parish councils and other stakeholders which it finds unacceptable.

An extract from the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 9 February 2015 is set out below and provides the Cabinet response:

"Councillor Clifton, the responsible Cabinet member, noted the concerns of the Committee and that some information had not been available when the Budget Review Group considered the issue. Councillor Clifton indicated that he had already responded to concerns of the parish and town councils in connection with out of town parking and had undertaken to publish a pack of technical information of the economic impacts of parking changes, together with the Barnett Judgement advice from Government.

Councillor Clifton further indicated that the shape and configuration of Bus fare structures would be included in the Central Milton Keynes Transport and Parking Strategy which he expected to be published for consultation following a decision on 24 February 2015.

Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council) also apologised that some information had not been made available in a timely manner."

## **9. Future Work Programme Items**

To consider potential items to be forwarded to the Scrutiny Management Committee for possible inclusion in the 2015/16 Work Programme. Possible issues include:

- (a) Flood and Water Strategy
- (b) Flood and Water Risk Management - review of Partnership working' and the interface with the public.
- (b) Bus Subsidies / Concessionary Fares
  - (i) The impact arising from any reductions in bus subsidies or increases in concessionary fares relating to:
    1. changes in travel behaviour;
    2. Parking, including around schools and local centres / shops;
    3. travel patterns;

4. modal shift;
  5. the local economy, particular travel to work, to education, by grandparents who act as unofficial child-minders to allow other members of the family to work;
  6. other Council services;
  7. the effect elasticity of demand on the budget (whereby a greater saving being achieved from the concessionary fare savings could be ploughed back); and
  8. the night time economy.
- (ii) measures to potentially mitigate any negative impacts;  
and
- (iii) whether additional spend on promotion would increase ridership.
- (c) Cultural Services Review
- (d) Midsummer Boulevard East Supplementary Planning Document
- (e) The communications approach adopted around the management of the Council's Highways Assets as part of its programme for 2015/16



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## **Agenda**

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Users of Windows 7 and above can simply click the link to any documents you wish to see. Users of Windows XP will need to right click on the link and select 'open in browser'.

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Guidance from the Department for Communities and local government can be viewed at the following link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/343182/140812\\_Openness\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/343182/140812_Openness_Guide.pdf)

## **Comments, Complaints and Compliments**

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Please use the slip overleaf by detaching it and passing it to the Committee Manager. Alternatively the slip can be returned by post to Democratic Services, Milton Keynes Council, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes, MK9 3EJ, or you can e-mail your comments to [meetings@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:meetings@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

If you require a response please leave contact details, ideally including an e-mail address. A formal complaints / compliments form is available online at <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/complaints/>

Meeting Attended: Environment and Transport Select Committee

Date of Meeting: 25 March 2015

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